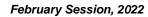


## General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5374





## AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO COMMEMORATE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (Effective from passage) (a) There is established the 2 Connecticut Semiquincentennial Commission to commemorate the two 3 hundred fiftieth anniversary of the American Revolution. The 4 commission shall be within the office of the Secretary of the State for 5 administrative purposes only. The purpose of the commission shall be 6 to: (1) Assist in ensuring that any observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution is inclusive and appropriately recognizes 7 8 the experiences and points of view of all people affected by the events 9 surrounding the American Revolution; (2) encourage civic, historical, 10 educational, economic, arts and other organizations throughout the 11 state to organize and participate in activities to expand the 12 understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American 13 Revolution; (3) collaborate with state and local tourism agencies to 14 promote the state as a prominent cultural and heritage tourism 15 destination American Revolution history; (4)encourage 16 interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of the American 17 Revolution; and (5) explore the ways in which the ethos of the United 18 States' national founding period and the two hundred fifty years that 19 follow influence the United States' present and can shape its future.

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20	(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:		
21 22	(1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of Connecticut Humanities;		
23 24	(2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Democracy Center;		
25 26	(3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Mohegan Tribe;		
27 28	(4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation;		
29 30 31	(5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut Historical Society;		
32 33	(6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of the Connecticut League of History Organizations;		
34 35 36 37	(7) Four appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative of the Mary and Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community and one of whom shall be a student or youth leader recommended by the executive director of the Old State House;		
38	(8) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;		

- 39 (9) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;
- 40 (10) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, 41 or the commissioner's designee;
- 42 (11) The Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services, or the 43 commissioner's designee;
- (12) The State Historic Preservation Officer designated pursuant to 36
  CFR 61.2, or the officer's designee;

- 46 (13) The State Historian, or the State Historian's designee; and
- 47 (14) The State Librarian, or the State Librarian's designee.
- (c) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation.
  - (d) The Governor shall appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members of the commission or their designees. The chairperson shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than sixty days after all initial appointments to the commission are made pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
  - (e) A majority of the membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum, but the commission may hold meetings without a quorum. Any decision shall be made by a majority vote of members present at a meeting at which there is a quorum. The commission may adopt rules of procedure.
  - (f) The commission shall have the following duties: (1) Commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution and Connecticut's participation and contributions to it, including, but not limited to, developing activities in recognition of the historic, social, legal, cultural and political forces that caused the American Revolution and influenced its course and outcomes; (2) collaborate with and assist other state and national organizations with programs and activities for the observance of the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution in the state; (3) facilitate American Revolution-related activities throughout the state; (4) provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations for the development of programs, projects and activities pertaining to the American Revolution that have lasting educational value within the state; and (5) support the creation of educational opportunities for students and all members of the public who wish to explore the intricacies of the founding period of the United

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- (g) To carry out the provisions of this section, the commission may take the following actions: (1) Engage in any activity permitted by a taxexempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended; (2) solicit, accept and use grants and charitable funds made available by the United States government or any United States agency to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution; (3) work in conjunction with any tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, with a similar mission to solicit, accept and use funds or in-kind contributions from private entities to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution; (4) request funds from the General Assembly to commemorate the semiquincentennial of the American Revolution; (5) establish any advisory or subcommittee that the commission deems necessary; or (6) authorize any member of the commission to take any action that the commission is authorized to take pursuant to this section.
- (h) Each state agency shall provide advice and information to the commission upon the commission's request if such information is consistent with the commission's purpose and duties as set forth in subsections (a) and (f) of this section.
- (i) Not later than January 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, the commission shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the activities of the commission, including, but not limited to, an accounting of any funds received or expended by the commission, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration, education, appropriations and commerce. Not later than October 1, 2026, the commission shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, regarding the activities of the commission, including, but not limited to, a final

accounting of any funds received or expended by the commission to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government administration, education, appropriations and commerce. The commission shall terminate on January 1, 2028, or, if the commission deems appropriate, before said date.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	from passage	New section	

## Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1, "(NEW)" was deleted for consistency with the general statutes.

CE Joint Favorable Subst.